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MISCELLANY AND NOTICES.

RACE PROBLEMS IN CUBA.

If no other result were to follow from the recent colonial expansion of the United States than the publication of the Cuban Census of 1899, and that of Porto Rico to follow close upon, the Spanish war would certainly not have been entirely in vain. This first volume throws a flood of light into a very dark corner of the earth. Few places seem to have been so little exploited scientifically as the islands which have been recently acquired by the United States. This fact can only be appreciated by students in search of definite information.

As for the population of Cuba, beside the merely descriptive traveller's tales there is little else of value beside Humboldt's *Essay on Cuba*, translated by Thrasher some fifty years ago; the compendious volumes of Ramon de la Sagra; and, quite recently, the excellent volume, *Cuba and Porto Rico*, by Mr. R. T. Hill of the United States Geological Survey. The Census, it is true, brings no absolutely new relationships to light; but it does a great deal to make definite and certain those which have heretofore been merely shadowy and vague. Without essaying to review the entire volume, it may not be without interest to comment upon certain of the facts brought forth, which are of large interest to the people of the United States in determining the policy which shall be pursued in future toward their new possessions.

The first point to notice is the striking contrast between Cuba and Porto Rico and the other islands in the West Indies in respect of their colored population. This may be considered first in respect to the absolute proportions of the various races, and secondly, as regards the population movement. As to the first point, the general facts are already well known. In Cuba 67.9 per cent of the population is of European stock, with 61.8 per cent in Porto Rico; while Jamaica had but 2.3 per cent of white population in a total of 639,000; the Barbadoes had 8.6 per cent, and the Leeward Islands 4.24 per cent of white population. And then we have the extreme case of Hayti, in which the proportion of white blood is now almost too small for

enumeration. Add to this the fact that the movement of population has steadily widened the contrast between the Spanish and British West Indies. Cuba's negro population, constituting at its maximum in 1841, 58.5 per cent, has now fallen, as above stated, to less than one-third. In Jamaica, on the other hand, two hundred years ago, the whites constituted nearly one-half of the population, this proportion being now reduced to an insignificant percentage. This condition of affairs in Jamaica is typical of all the other West Indies.

The contrast between the British and Spanish West Indies, above mentioned, suggests a still further query, big with importance for the future. Slavery is but recently abolished in Cuba — in law not until 1880, in fact not until 1887 — since which time the country has been for the most part rent by civil war. Never before in her history until now has the negro population of Cuba been normal in times of peace. For generations under slavery a great disproportion numerically between the sexes prevailed, a disproportion noted by all writers, and especially emphasized by Humboldt. This disproportion of the sexes, consisting of an overwhelming preponderance of imported male slaves, is probably one of the factors which has prevented the negro population from increasing as it otherwise might have done. In order to repair the losses by excess of deaths over births it is estimated that nearly 1,000,000 negro slaves have been imported into the island during her history.

The question of present importance is this: Relieved from the rigorous hardships of slavery, and with a normal relation between the sexes almost for the first time established, will the negro population now begin to increase at a much more rapid rate than heretofore? Or will the conditions prevailing in our Southern States, characterized by a much slower increase of negro than of white, continue? If the forebodings of de la Sagra, Steele, and others are realized, both Cuba and Porto Rica may be expected to go as Hayti, Jamaica, and the other West Indies have done.

The next query of importance concerns the possibility of the adaptation of the European to the climate of these West Indian islands. There can be no question as to the adaptability of the Spaniard. The numbers of the present native-born Cuban white population are clear enough proof of the success of this nationality in the tropics. We refer rather to the possibility of an acclimatiza-

tion of the Anglo-Saxon stock, and especially of the American type. In this respect, perhaps, Cuba is somewhat less favorably situated than other islands, such as Jamaica, the Bahamas, and the Barbadoes, where the health of the English whites seems to be fairly good. A contrast also disadvantageous to Cuba will probably have to be noted between itself and Porto Rico. There can be little doubt that the tropical characteristics of Cuba are more strongly accentuated than in the smaller islands round about. The Cuban Census at hand does not yield any satisfactory data upon this point. This appears to be through no fault of the census authorities, but rather by reason of an absolute lack of reliable data. Ramon de la Sagra devotes considerable space in his volume on population to the discussion of vital statistics, but it is probable that he would have done better scientifically if he had followed the dictum of this Census which, after a considerable statistical compilation, remarks that "no confidence can be placed in the accuracy of these figures." It is to be hoped, moreover, that all vital statistics hereafter collected will clearly distinguish between the colored and white population. Hoffman has brought together much data for many of the British West Indian colonies; but nothing for comparative study would seem to be available for Cuba, judging from this volume. Some years prior to the raising of the question of colonial expansion we ventured to discuss the question.¹ Our conclusions from available data at the time were definitely unfavorable to the prospect of successful acclimatization of the people of Northern Europe. The facts are of primary importance; for the entire future of our colonial policy must be determined by them.

Another topic which is worthy of discussion concerns the economic value of the negro for industrial exploitation of these West Indian Islands. Of course if the present high proportion of people of European, and especially of Spanish, extraction is to continue, the labor question may resolve itself along those lines. But if, on the other hand, it turns out that other and more energetic races are unable to hold their own in these islands, it may be that the negro, as during slavery times, may again of necessity come to constitute the bulk of the laboring population. Observers agree as to the superior character at the present time of the Cuban and Porto Rican negro as compared with other types in the West Indies. Barbadoes is perhaps the only exception, and here the density of population and the absence

¹ *Popular Science Monthly*, March and April, 1896.

of unappropriated land suitable for squatters has forced the negro to be industrious. Porto Rico has had practically little experience with the negro as born out of slavery; and under servitude, the possibility of acquiring freedom by purchase surely must have been a spur to continued labor. Will the Cuban negro now degenerate to the type of the natives in Jamaica, improvident, happy-go-lucky, and good-for-nothing; or will he be able to preserve his economic status at its present efficiency. It is a common practice among writers upon the West Indies to quote the harrowing descriptions of Livingston in his *Black Jamaica*, or Spencer St. John in his volume on Hayti. The only impartial observer in this direction seems to be Mr. Hill, whose opportunity for comparative observation has certainly been excellent. And he remarks of the Haytian negro, left to himself for almost a century, that he compares very favorably with the negroes of the best West Indian type. At all events, it would seem that the education of this and the Porto Rican negro population must be at once begun aright. There can be little question that in our Southern States, owing to the mistakes and the deficiency of the present system, the negro economically is becoming less valuable. It behooves Cuba to take steps at once to see that the degenerating influences of emancipation shall not uninterruptedly come into play; otherwise the only hope for the industrial development of the island will be to fall back upon the policy of importation of Coolie or Chinese labor, as already tried in several of the British colonies.

A notable contrast between Cuba and the other islands seems to be found in the relative proportion of the sexes. There is a distinct excess of males over females in the Cuban population, differing in this respect from Jamaica, Porto Rico, the Leeward Islands, and the Bahamas. This of course is primarily traceable to the effects of immigration; that is to say, a population recruited by immigration will almost always be found to include an excess of males. Cuba is distinct from Porto Rico and Jamaica in offering many inducements to immigration, its territory still being very sparsely settled; whereas, on the other hand, the other West Indian Islands are almost as densely populated as it is possible for them to be; and many of them are characterized by an excess of emigration for that reason. Emigration, of course, draws off the males leaving females, as observed in these islands, in excess. It would be interesting to inquire how

far the relative disproportion of the sexes, as in Hayti,¹ where little movement of population takes place, may be due to the degree of crossing of black and white, or to other economic factors. There is some indication that females at birth are very largely in excess among half-breeds. The determination of this point, however, will require more exact statistical information than is at present at hand.

In conclusion, we may call attention to one other contrast between Cuba and Porto Rico and other West Indian Islands as brought out in this excellent piece of work. It seems as if in all the Spanish and French West Indies the proportion of those of mixed parentage was far greater than in the colonies of Great Britain. The Anglo-Saxon here as everywhere holds aloof from intercourse with those of inferior race; and we have as a result in Barbadoes and in Jamaica, for example, the pure white and the full-blooded negro clearly set apart from one another. In the Spanish islands, and in the French colony of Martinique, on the other hand, no such antipathy to intermarriage of the races seems to prevail, and a gradation from one to the other is commonly to be observed. All through the West Indies also it is to be noted that there is a lack of that social antipathy between black and whites which lies at the root of the negro problem in our own Southern States. For example, there is no such abhorrence of the employment of white and negro labor side by side as we find in the United States, whereby the problems of social control are considerably simplified. Whether this docile condition of the negro is due to the fact that he is kept under tutelage to the white by the European clergy, rather than left to the mercy of his own native leaders, is perhaps impossible of determination. There can be little question, however, that the contact of one race with another engendered by this means is socially beneficial to both.

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EDUCATION OF WOMEN.

Education of Women. By M. Carey Thomas. *Monographs on Education in the United States*; edited by Nicholas Murray Butler. Department of Education for the United States Commission to the Paris Exposition of 1900. Pp. 40.

Among the monographs edited by Prof. Nicholas Murray Butler for the United States Commission to the Paris Exposition of 1900 is

¹An overwhelming proportion of females is noted by many observers; as Spencer St. John, p. 130; Tippenhauer, *Hayti*, p. 437.